

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contacts: Miriam Andrioli
andrioli@meteofa.mi.ar
11 516 767 13

Madelyn Appelbaum
Madelyn.Appelbaum@noaa.gov
001 202 431 6827

New Satellite Coverage of South America Will Limit the Effects of Natural Disasters

Plans will be announced to shift a spacecraft to a new position in orbit, greatly improving environmental satellite coverage of the Western Hemisphere, especially over South America. By significantly improving satellite detection of severe storms, floods, drought, landslides, wildfires, and other natural hazards, the move will help protect the lives and property of South Americans. Nearly half the disasters in South America are caused by flooding. In February 2005, massive flooding and landslides in low-lying coastal areas of Venezuela, Guyana and Columbia caused nearly 100 deaths and left tens of thousands of South Americans homeless.

The move will also represent a vital new link in an emerging global Earth observation network, of which Argentina and 59 other countries and the European Commission are members. Over the next decade, this network will revolutionize our understanding of how Earth works, bringing improved disaster mitigation, important public health benefits, better management of energy and water resources, and numerous other benefits to just about every sector of global society.

When: **Monday, January 16**
12:30 p.m.

Where: Círculo de la Fuerza Aérea Argentina
731 Córdoba Ave., Buenos Aires

Who: Air Force Brig. Gen. (retired) John J. Kelly, Jr., Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Com. Miguel Angel Rabiolo, General Director of the Servicio Meteorológico Nacional of Argentina and Permanent Representative of Argentina with World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Dr. Conrado Franco Varotto, Executive and Technical Director
Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales (CONAE)